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Claims 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Girot et al. in view of Jordan. It is respectfully submitted that this combination of patents does not teach the claimed invention as presently defined in these claims.

Claims 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Girot et al. in view of Jordan and Radek ('885). It is respectfully submitted that this combination of patents does not teach the claimed invention as presently defined in these claims.

Independent claims 1, 15 (now made independent), 17 and 18 have been amended to state clearly (if not previously so evidently claimed) that the top and bottom fasteners are, as for example stated in claim 1, "each separately secured to the wall for enabling relative positioning of said top and bottom fasteners with respect to one another both to provide a maximum ability to establish any desired positioning therebetween and for accommodating any unevenness that may exist in the wall." None of the cited art defines this feature.

In the Girot et al. patent, the so-called top and bottom fasteners (respectively "vertical extension" 34 and "branch" 35) are not separately secured to its wall 2. Rather, vertical extension 34 is integral to a "mounting member" 1 and branch 35 is secured to vertical portion 4 of cornice 3 which, in turn, is engaged with vertical extension 34 through the intermediary of a cavity 5. Further, hanging-rod 9 threadably engages branch 35, which acts as a nut, and is tightly screwed against a bottom branch 48 of mounting member 1. Accordingly, because vertical extension 34 and branch 35 are both affixed to mounting member 1, it is improper to allege that they are separately attached to the wall.

In the Radek patent, its channel portions 15 and 15' are formed at the upper and lower edges of panel P. Panel P is secured to a bracket B (see FIG. 11) which, in

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turn, is secured to a wall W. A light panel 20 has a U-shaped portion 22 whose free flange 17' rests within a flange 17 of channel portion 15. An integral part 22' of U-shaped portion 22 rests against panel P. Thus, there are no separate parts of light panel 20 which are independently secured to wall W.

In the Jordan patent, its light fixture includes a rear wall 25 which forms the sole connection of light fixture 11 to a wall W. Therefore, there are no separate parts of light panel 20 which are independently secured to wall W.

Regarding claims 2-5, 11-14, 16 and 17, these claims define the "hinge attachment" between wall end 48 of the present invention to bottom fastener 24, including "an overhang positioned adjacent to said U-shaped channels to provide an additional light seal" (claims 5 and 14). There is no such "hinge attachment" disclosed in any of the cited art. In the Girot et al. patent, the attachment is rigid, not "pivoted," as claimed, e.g., in claim 2. In the Radek patent, no discussion of the connection between baffle 70 and panel P can be found outside of the use of rods 72 (column 2, lines 49-52) at the upper part of baffle 70; FIG. 6 simply shows what appears to be some form of abutment of the lower part of baffle 70 against or to panel P. Thus, the Radek patent lacks any disclosure of any articulated engagement between its bottom part with panel P, as claimed in claims 2-5, 11-14, 16 and 17. The Jordan patent is similarly deficient as the Radek patent.

Claims 6-10 and 17 also define a specific coupling between the top fastener and the panel section including adjustable straps having a "pair of tangs" (claim 7) and a specifically defined "latching device" (claims 8-10 and 17). Such claimed structure cannot be found in any of the Girot et al., Radek and Jordan patents.

The remainder of the referenced patents do not appear to address the deficiencies of the applied patents.

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Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejections of claims 1-21, and allowance thereof is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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